

## CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A system for communication between a first host and second host comprising:  
means for communicating between a first host and a storage area network using a storage  
area network protocol;  
means for communicating between a second host and the storage area network using the  
storage area network protocol; and  
10 means for communicating directly between the first and second hosts using the storage area  
network protocol.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON  
protocol.
- 15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for communicating comprises:  
means at the first host for translating between the storage area network protocol and a host-  
to-host communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.
- 20 4. A system for facilitating the communications of a first host comprising:  
means for communicating with a second host using a storage area network protocol; and  
means for communicating with a storage area network using the storage area network  
protocol.
- 25 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON  
protocol.
6. The system of claim 4, wherein the means for communicating comprises:  
means for translating between the storage area network protocol; and  
30 communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

7. A method for communicating between a first host and second host comprising:  
communicating between a first host and a storage area network using a storage area network  
protocol;

- 5 communicating between a second host and the storage area network using the storage area  
network protocol; and  
communicating directly between the first and second hosts using the storage area network  
protocol.

10 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON  
protocol.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of communicating between the first and  
second hosts comprises:

- 15 the first host translating between the storage area network protocol and a host-to-host  
communications protocol.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the host-to-host communications protocol is TCP/IP.

- 20 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON  
protocol.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of communicating directly between the first  
and second hosts comprises:

- 25 encapsulating TCP/IP packets from the first host in 8232 protocol frames;  
transmitting the 8232 protocol frames to the second host using the FICON protocol; and  
decapsulating the TCP/IP packets from the 8232 protocol frames at the second host.

- 30 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of communicating directly between the first  
and second hosts supports a high-speed file transfer application.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the file transfer application is supported by 3088  
emulation.

- 35 15. The method of claim 9, where the host-to-host protocol is SNA.

16. A method for facilitating the communications of a first host comprising:  
communicating with a second host using a storage area network protocol; and  
communicating with a storage area network using the storage area network protocol.

5 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON  
protocol.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the steps for communicating comprise:  
translating between the storage area network protocol and a communications protocol  
10 selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

19. An article for communicating between a first host and a second host comprising:  
a computer-readable signal-bearing medium;  
means in the medium for communicating between a first host and a storage area network  
15 using a storage area network protocol;  
means in the medium for communicating between a second host and the storage area network  
using a storage area network protocol; and  
means in the medium for communicating between the first host and the second host using the  
storage are network protocol.

20 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON  
protocol.

21. The article of claim 19, wherein the means in the medium for communicating  
25 comprises:  
means in the medium at the first host for translating between the storage area network  
protocol; and  
a host-to-host communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and  
SNA.

30 22. The article of claim 19, wherein the medium is a recordable data storage medium.

23. The article of claim 22, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of  
magnetic, optical, biological and atomic data storage media.

35 24. The article of claim 19, wherein the medium is a modulated carrier signal.

25. An article for communicating with a first host comprising:  
a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

5 means in the medium for communicating with a storage area network using a storage area network protocol.

26. The article of claim 25, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

10 27. The article of claim 25, wherein the means in the medium for communicating comprises:

means in the medium for translating between the storage area network protocol; and  
means in the medium for a host-to-host communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

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28. The article of claim 25, wherein the medium is a recordable data storage medium.

29. The article of claim 26, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of magnetic, optical, biological and atomic data storage media.

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30. The article of claim 25, wherein the medium is a modulated carrier signal.